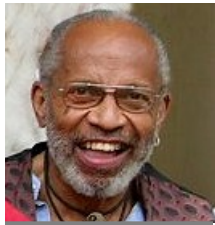


# The Jim Arden Foundation & TACODA



Creating Better Lives for Tanzanian Children



Jim Arden

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We were hoping that our final newsletter of 2008 would be one exclusively devoted to the many accomplishments of the Foundation and TACODA this year. However, as the recent turmoil in the global financial systems has deepened, 2008 is turning from a year with exhilarating highs to one with perilous lows for JAF.



Donata Arden

Earlier in the year we experienced great joy and satisfaction as we renovated our new home in Arusha (within the very modest budget that we established for the project) and moved our boys into it. At the same time, many of our generous supporters have come forward to sponsor the education of half of our children in an English language schooling environment. Yet, as we now approach year end, we find ourselves confronting the most serious financial crisis of our short history; a position we would not be in if not for the current worldwide economic upheaval.

At the end of July and after the completion of all renovations, JAF had the same amount of cash on hand as we did at the end of July in 2007. Increased contributions through May and the successful benefit in June allowed us to make payments on the house purchase and pay for all renovations without a reduction in our typical cash balance from last year to this year. At that time, we expected smooth sailing for the remainder of this calendar year.

Smooth sailing, however, was not to be. The current economic climate has hit JAF hard. Unrestricted contributions since June have shrunk to a trickle and the cost of food and fuel in Tanzania has escalated, thereby increasing the costs of providing food and shelter for the TACODA boys when we can least afford it. These factors have left us with only \$5,000 in our bank account at this time to meet our regular monthly TACODA bills.

As most organizations reduce costs in times of economic hardship, we are not in a position to do this. No one in JAF takes a salary and many of our administrative costs are funded by volunteers. As a result, the costs we need to operate are the costs to feed, clothe, supervise and house a dozen boys. There is no feasible way for us to ration food, fire TACODA staff who work directly with the boys, or take away the boys' home.

To make the situation even more unsettling, the uncertainty facing the economy, the stock market and the presidential election suggests to us that donations are not likely to pick up unless we take action. To put it simply, without donations this month from virtually every one of you, we are in danger of not being able to pay TACODA bills in December or in the foreseeable future.

We know that this year's accomplishments could not have happened without your personal financial sacrifices and hard work. It's amazing what we have accomplished together in such a short period of time. Yet, circumstances have drastically changed. Quite honestly, we hate to ask any of you to do more but we are at risk to jeopardizing everything we've worked so hard for if we don't.

We find asking for money hard. We hate doing it. But we'd hate asking the boys' to give up their home even more. So, could each of you please make another donation in whatever amount you can afford? And, will you please ask everyone you know to do the same? Every dollar will help us. We are confident that with your help we will get through this difficult period successfully.

**Just as an example, if every person that receives this letter makes a contribution of \$100 in November, we will be able to operate TACODA at its present level for the next 6 months. The pledge of another \$100 to be paid in March would enable us to operate through the end of 2009.** Hopefully, by then, the markets will have stabilized, presidential transition will have taken place, and the fears of a deep, long-term recession will have abated.

We wish we had better news on such a beautiful Fall day. We wish we could have enjoyed what we've accomplished together just a little longer. We wish we could be focusing on the next 3 years rather than the next 3 months. We wish we were writing to report a large financial commitment from the Gates Foundation but, unfortunately, none of these wishes are reality and reality is what we have to deal with.

Your help at this most difficult time in our history is needed more than ever and as always will be greatly appreciated by us and our boys. Thank you in advance for whatever contribution you can make to help us.

*Jim Arden*

*Donata Arden*



## Other Ways to Help JAF and TACODA

### Share your Email Address

Send your email address to [mary@jimarden.org](mailto:mary@jimarden.org).

This will allow us to send you our newsletter electronically and save us both postage and the cost of envelopes!

### Make a Multi-Year Pledge

Our expenses are incurred monthly while our donations are unpredictable.

If you make a multi-year pledge and pay it in January of each year or semi-annually in January and June it would help us greatly.

### Spread the Word

Tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about JAF.

Ask them to help us by making a donation. Ask [mary@jimarden.org](mailto:mary@jimarden.org) to provide you with any informational materials you need.

### Use [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) to Shop On-Line

Register with [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) for your on-line shopping.

Every time you make a purchase with one of iGive's 800+ participating retailers, they will make a contribution to JAF. In just a few months, we have earned \$100 in additional contributions. Won't you do this too? It's quick, easy and free!

### Book a Tanzanian Safari

Sign up for a safari in Tanzania with us. As your guides, we will share the beauty of the Serengeti, the Ngorongoro crater, and other sites with you. We will introduce you to bushmen as well as Maasai tribesmen and their families.

Ask [jim@jimarden.org](mailto:jim@jimarden.org) to design a safari just for you!

### Set up a School Program

We have two school based programs (with materials and instructions) available that will help educate children about Africa, raise funds for JAF and provide fun for children.

For the youngest children, we have a ***Pennies for Hope*** program and for our older children we have a ***Reading to the Rescue*** program.

Ask [sheryl@jimarden.org](mailto:sheryl@jimarden.org) for the materials and get these programs started in your schools.

### Ask for a Matching Corporate Gift

Ask your employer for a matching donation to JAF. Many companies have programs that will match your donations either dollar for dollar or for a percent of each donation.

If your company doesn't have a matching gift program, consider asking them to set one up!

Ask [mary@jimarden.org](mailto:mary@jimarden.org) to provide you with materials to share with your employer.

### Host a Small Benefit

Host a benefit in your home for JAF and TACODA. It can be as simple as pre-dinner cocktails, post-dinner coffee and dessert, a buffet luncheon or, if you're so inclined, a sit down dinner. An appropriate admission in the form of a donation to JAF would be requested.

We will be willing to attend your small benefit and tell your guests about all we do in Arusha with the homeless and other disadvantaged children.



# The Jim Arden Foundation & TACODA

*Creating Better Lives for Tanzanian Children*

## **We Need Your Help**



The Jim Arden Foundation  
PO Box 4  
Cos Cob, CT 06807

# The Jim Arden Foundation & TACODA

*Creating Better Lives for Tanzanian Children*

## **Commitment to Help**

I will help The Jim Arden Foundation by providing:

- my email address \_\_\_\_\_
- a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in  Nov.  Dec.
- a pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid in March.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

The Jim Arden Foundation  
PO Box 4  
Cos Cob, CT 06807